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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 25X1 REPORT [redacted]

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Germany (Russian Zone)	DATE DISTR.	25X1 23 July 1951
SUBJECT	Penicillin and Drugs Production in the Russian Zone	NO. OF PAGES	3
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[redacted]

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

[redacted]

25X1 25X1 1. [redacted] eighty to ninety percent of the total production of Jenapharm was destined for the Russian Military Administration. The plant began to produce penicillin early in 1950 and was placed under Russian military control. Because the incidence of sabotage was fairly high, the manufacture of penicillin was placed directly under Russian military supervision and closely checked by a Russian colonel. Despite this supervision, acts of sabotage continued. On one occasion, it was discovered that a number of 15,000-liter tanks were no longer sterile, since bacteria of a different nature had been introduced into the tanks. Although the work had been under constant Russian supervision and Dr. Koehler (fnu), a research scientist, had been replaced by [redacted] Dr. Hilbert (fnu), neither the method of this sabotage nor its perpetrators were ever discovered.

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2. The required quantity of usable penicillin had not been produced as of the summer of 1950. The Russians demanded sixty billion units per year. As of June 1950, only six to ten billion units of usable penicillin had been produced; the remainder was not usable.

3. There were other acts of sabotage in the Jenapharm establishments. For instance, carbonic disulphide was poured out of the containers in the laboratories; four thousand-liter tanks of ether were emptied; and fire broke out in the chemical basement for unknown reasons. Investigation by the criminal police produced no positive clues. The total damage amounted to 20,000 east marks. In early May 1950, it was discovered that morphine was being smuggled to Czechoslovakia.

4. The following were the leading personalities at the plant in early 1950:

Professor Dr. med. Hans Knoell:
Director

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Dr. Richard Weinhold:

Dr. Koehler:
Technical Director

H. Bornschein:
Business Manager

Kurth Matthay (?):
Personnel Chief

[redacted]

25X1 5. [redacted] October 1947, there were approximately 150 employees. The plant had one fungus room with 15,000 cultivation flasks. Dr. Weinhold was in charge of the penicillin test laboratory. A pharmaceutical section under a pharmacist, Dr. Bonar, produced pure chemical solutions for injections. Tests were carried out on a small scale to produce penicillin in a 100-liter metal container by using the Submers process which was much cheaper. In early November 1947, tests were carried out in Building 23 (Zeiss Suedwerk) for the application of the Submers method to large quantities in 500-liter and 1000-liter containers. The tests failed and shortly thereafter, the fungus room was enlarged to make it possible to apply the Decken Method. About 60,000 flasks of penicillin were produced in liquid form for injections. At the beginning, the entire production was destined for Russian use exclusively. Later, positive results were obtained by the Submers Method and production of penicillin in 3,000-liter tanks was started. Thus the production curve of penicillin began to climb, and the DDR Ministry of Economy granted sufficient funds to expand the plant to make it the largest producer of penicillin in the Russian Zone. In the spring of 1948, the Jenapharm establishment was granted permission to enlarge Building 22 and 23 on the grounds of the Zeiss Suedwerk. By June 1950, the plant employed approximately 800 persons.

25X1 6. [redacted] Dr. Knoell was attempting to produce at Jenapharm an anti-tubercular vaccine which had hitherto been imported from Sweden. He expected to complete this project in 1951. The Russians promised him a new laboratory at the Beutenberg Plant in Jena for his experiments. The tuberculosis drug No. 699 (?), as produced by Bayer, is being manufactured in large quantities by Jenapharm under the name Tebethion. This drug was not satisfactory, since it gave the patients severe liver ailments or caused a decomposition of the blood. The administration of this drug has caused several deaths.

7. A Fräulein Dr. Ruschmann, after completing the preliminary research, initiated the production of streptomycin. Early in 1950, the production was converted to the Decken Method. Other scientists are now working on the project. Attempts are being made to produce penicillin concurrently with streptomycin, but no positive results had been obtained in June 1950.

8. A Dr. Oskowski worked on a tuberculosis drug, possibly Tebethion. Tests were also made in an attempt by Dr. Kuchler to produce Vitamin C, and a Dr. Schubert was working on the production of Vitamin D2 from Mycelen (sic) *. Dr. Knoell himself worked on medicines for the treatment of tuberculosis and cancer. The results of the latter research are unknown. A certain Dr. Brungmann, now a refugee in the West, obtained positive results in the cultivation of penicillin stems.

9. In 1948, when the pharmaceutical department was expanded, all efforts were concentrated on the production of solutions for injections. By 1950, the "tube department" produced chiefly the following drugs: Morphine, Janacin (novocaine), isotonal (for blood transfusions), glycofructon (a fruit and glucose product), and phenylacetic acid. The Ointment Department produced penicillin ointment and the Pill Department made Tebethion pills.

10. Until the end of 1949, a Dr. Ronser, specialist in the field of drug extraction, was producing belladonna extract, Mahler (?) extract, thyme extract, and shield fern extract. In addition, it was planned to produce the following extracts: digitalis fluid extract, and lily of the valley flower extracts. The following alkaloids were produced: atropine sulfate, digitalin, and digitoxin. Early in 1950, the production of these drugs was ordered stopped. The extraction program was entirely modified and efforts were concentrated on the production of morphine from poppy extracts. In the summer of 1950, the total production of morphine amounted to 20 kg per month.

25X1 [redacted] Comment: Possibly mycelium.